

ON THE FOODPLANTS OF *CHRYSOLINA STAPHYLEA* L. (COL.: CHRYSOMELIDAE). — I was interested to read the concluding remarks in A. A. Allen's note concerning the foodplants of *Chrysolina* spp. (1983, *Ent. Rec.*, 95: 152) of the association of *Chrysolina staphylea* L. with *Ranunculus* in Britain. This prompted me to record here a few observations of my own on other host-plants of this species in West Cumbria. *C. staphylea* appears to be quite well distributed in the West Cumbrian Region. It is not uncommon, and occurs in a number of localities both inland and on the coast. On a number of occasions I have come across the adults and larvae feeding on *Plantago lanceolata*, and it was particularly abundant on this plant along the cliff tops near Fleswick Bay (NX94.13), on 22nd April, 1981. A number of adults were present and many larvae in all stages of development were found at the base of individual plants, mainly on the ground and feeding on the lower leaves, where they made large irregular notch marks. While grubbing for beetles on the saltmarsh near Waberthwaite Church. (SD10.95), on 27th September, 1980 I found *C. staphylea*, this time on *Plantago maritima* and *Aster tripolium*. Both adults and larvae were found around the base of these plants and feeding marks were present on the leaves. The beetle has occurred in other saltmarsh situations on the same species of plants, and it is abundant around the estuaries of the River Irt and Mite near Ravenglass (SD09).

In the above environment it would be interesting to discover how the adults and the external feeding larvae of *C. staphylea* are able to survive being covered by water during periods of high tide, and if they are adapted in some way to cope with a sudden rise in the water level. I have not carried out any observations on this particular aspect of their behaviour, but on 27th. September, 1980 near Friday Point by the River Esk (SD19), I did find one live adult which was completely submerged and clinging to a stem of Sea Aster in a small, shallow pool of water left by the receding tide.

I would also like to mention here that I have found *Chrysolina banksi* (F.) in association with *Plantago lanceolata* on the south coast. Adults and larvae occurred in moderate numbers on this plant on a small piece of waste ground near Gilkicker Point, Gosport, South Hants. (SZ60.97), during April, 1976. A number of plant hosts for *C. banksi* are listed in the key to the larvae of the British *Chrysolina* by J. Marshall (1979, *Syst. Ent.*, 4:414), and all are in the family Labiatae, but not Plantaginaceae. — R. W. J. READ, 43 Holly Terrace, Hensingham, Whitehaven, Cumbria CA28 8RF.

STROPHEDRA NITIDANA FABR. (LEP.: TORTRICIDAE) IN CUMBRIA (VC 69). — In early November 1983, I collected a number of mined oak leaves from a wood at Seatle, near Newby Bridge, for the purpose of rearing species of *Nepticulidae* and *Phyllonorycter*. Among the leaves was one with a frass-covered cocoon attached to the under surface, on a patch from which the soft tissue, as far

as the upper epidermis, had been eaten. I kept this leaf in a sealed container, at first in a cool place, and from January in a warm room. A specimen of *Strophedra nitidana* emerged on 27th February, 1984. Early unconfirmed records for this species in Lancashire, Westmorland and Cumberland, detailed in *British Tortricoid Moths* Vol. 2, by Bradley, Tremewan and Smith (1979), are therefore probably authentic. — E. F. HANCOCK, Abbotsford, Belmont, Ulverston, Cumbria.

HYPSPYGIA COSTALIS F. (LEP.: PYRALIDAE): THE IMAGO IN NOVEMBER. — Amongst several *Nomophila noctuella* D. & S. and *Autographa gamma* L., taken from my actinic light trap here in Stroud on 3rd November 1983, was a single specimen of *H. costalis* in fresh condition. This very late date prompted me to glean through my past records of the species, where I find that the latest date previously recorded in the county, at light, is — Stockend Wood, near Stroud, three at light on 2nd September 1978. Could the former record therefore be indicative of a possible second emergence? — M. N. McCREA, 3, Blockley Cottages, Middle Street, Uplands, Stroud, Glos., GL5 1TQ.

MODERN DISPERSAL OF THE EUROPEAN SKIPPER: THYMELICUS LINEOLA OCHS. (LEP.: HESPERIIDAE). — In July 1977 I was working in the northern part of the lower peninsula of Michigan. I had driven many miles and, as it was mid-afternoon, decided to pull over onto the grass, tape my correspondence and take a short walk. I had purchased two cans of Coca Cola, and drank one as I dictated my reports. The day was hot so I left my windows down as I left the auto for a walk to search the scrubby low growth, that abounded in the area, for larvae.

After approximately one half hour of unsuccessful search but a pleasant walk, I returned to my automobile. To my surprise I found no less than fourteen *T. lineola* imbibing from some "Coke" that was on the top and side of the empty can on my dashboard. I had noticed a few *lineola* on my walk, but certainly nothing of a population explosion.

Northern lower Michigan, with its unspoiled scenery and lakes, is a tourist spot in the summer. On that particular afternoon, by casual observation, I counted license plates for twelve different states. Because of the popularity of campers and caravans, it would not seem improbable that a tourist from, say Kansas, could pick up some adults in his trailer, take a long day's drive home, and accidentally release them there. The species does seem to be engaged in a relatively rapid spread in recent years. — CHRISTOPHER A. YOUNG, M. A. 15874 Alexander, Livonia, Michigan 48154, U.S.A.

EARLY OCCURRENCE OF BISTON BETULARIA L. (PEPPERED MOTH) IN THE WILD. — I noted a single example of this moth at light here in Stroud on 20th April 1983, and in 1982 observed